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*Rail workers in California have been banned from using cell phones while trains are moving - after 25 people were killed in a crash near Los Angeles two weeks ago. Investigators say the train engineer was sending text messages while at work. Rajesh Mirchandani reports:*

**Investigators** have **concluded** engineer Robert Sanchez - who was **in charge of** a busy passenger train - failed to apply the brakes before a red light and **ploughed into** an **oncoming freight train**. 25 people, including Sanchez, died and more than 130 were hurt in the **collision** in Chatsworth, north of Los Angeles. Sanchez was sending text messages from his mobile phone that day and some teenagers told a local news station they received one such message from him one minute before the crash.

The California **Public Utilities** Commission, which **regulates transportation** in the state, has now banned rail employees from using mobile phones while working on a moving train. If they do so, they could now **face a fine of** up to \$20,000. The measure strengthens an existing ban issued by the train company.

It was also partly **prompted by** another crash in June - then 14 people were hurt when two San Francisco trams collided. Investigators believe one of the drivers in that accident may also have been using a mobile phone.

Rajesh Mirchandani, BBC News, Los Angeles

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>Investigators</b>	people whose job is discovering information about people and/or events, especially crimes or accidents
<b>concluded</b>	decided (after consideration), confirmed
<b>in charge of</b>	driving (if you are in charge, you are in command or in a position of responsibility)
<b>ploughed into</b>	hit with great force
<b>oncoming freight train</b>	a train carrying goods, not people, that was moving in the opposite direction
<b>collision</b>	crash, i.e. when two objects hit each other
<b>Public Utilities</b>	in the US, government-regulated companies that provide essential public services, e.g. water, gas, electricity, or public transport
<b>regulates transportation</b>	adopts and enforces rules that apply to the movement of vehicles
<b>face a fine of</b>	be told to pay (by court)
<b>prompted by</b>	caused by; the result of

**More on this story:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7624625.stm>

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